

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-108. (canceled)

109. (new) A method of producing a plurality of sterilized, prefilled containers comprising:

- providing a plurality of separate manufacturing lines;
- providing each manufacturing line with at least one container;
- transferring the containers along the manufacturing lines into a common sterile environment from a location exterior to the sterile environment;
- introducing a sterile fluid substance into the containers while the containers are within the common sterile environment;
- sealing the sterile fluid substance within the containers while the containers are within the common sterile environment; and
- transferring the containers out of the common sterile environment, wherein said manufacturing lines remain separate during the step of transferring the containers out of the sterile environment.

110. (new) The method of claim 109, further comprising the step of sterilizing the containers at a sterilizing station prior to transferring the containers to the sterile environment.

111. (new) The method of claim 110, wherein said transferring the containers to a sterile environment includes maintaining the containers in a sterile condition between

the sterilizing station and the sterile environment.

112. (new) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of providing a sterile ambient atmospheric condition external and adjacent to the sterile environment, wherein said transferring the containers to a sterile environment includes exposing the containers to the sterile atmospheric condition.

113. (new) The method of claim 112, wherein at least a portion of the sterile ambient atmospheric condition is provided by the sterilizing station.

114. (new) The method of claim 110, wherein each manufacturing line includes a separate sterilizing station.

115. (new) The method of claim 110, wherein said sterilizing the containers includes exposing the containers to electron beam irradiation.

116. (new) The method of claim 110, wherein said sterilizing the containers includes exposing the containers to a plurality of beams of electron beam irradiation.

117. (new) The method of claim 116, wherein at least one of the manufacturing lines includes a transport mechanism, said transferring containers to a sterile environment includes transferring the containers along the transport mechanism, providing a plurality

of electron beam sources, and positioning the electron beam sources on opposing sides of the transport mechanism.

118. (new) The method of claim 109, further comprising the steps of transferring a plurality of sterilized tip caps into the sterile environment and adding one of the tip caps to an open tip of each of the containers prior to said introducing a sterile fluid substance into the containers.

119. (new) The method of claim 118, further comprising the step of transferring a plurality of sterilized plungers into the sterile environment, wherein said sealing the sterile fluid substance within the containers includes inserting one of the plungers into an open end of each of the containers.

120. (new) The method of claim 109, further comprising the step of transferring a plurality of sterilized plungers into the sterile environment and inserting one of the plungers into an open end of each of the containers prior to said introducing a sterile fluid substance into the containers.

121. (new) The method of claim 120, further comprising the step of transferring a plurality of sterile tip caps into the sterile environment, wherein said sealing the sterile fluid substance within the containers includes adding one of the tip caps to an open tip of each of the containers.

122. (new) The method of claim 109, wherein said providing at least one container includes forming the container at a molding station, wherein each manufacturing line includes a separate molding station.

123. (new) The method of claim 109, wherein said providing at least one container includes forming the container at a molding station, wherein each manufacturing line includes a plurality of separate molding stations.

124. (new) The method of claim 109, further comprising the step of inserting a plurality of containers into a transfer holder prior to transferring the containers into the sterile environment.

125. (new) The method of claim 109, wherein no human contact with the containers is required.

126. (new) A method of producing a sterilized, prefilled container comprising:
 providing a container;
 sterilizing the container at a sterilizing station;
 transporting the container along a transport mechanism from the sterilizing station and into a sterile environment that is separate from the sterilizing station;
 providing a sterile ambient atmospheric condition external and adjacent to the

sterile environment, wherein at least a portion of the sterile ambient atmospheric condition is provided by the sterilizing station and said transporting the container includes exposing the container to the sterile ambient atmospheric condition;

introducing a sterile fluid substance into the container while the container is within the sterile environment; and

sealing the sterile fluid substance within the container while the container is within the sterile environment.

127. (new) The method of claim 126, wherein said sterilizing the container includes exposing the containers to electron beam irradiation.

128. (new) The method of claim 127, wherein said sterilizing the container including exposing the containers to a plurality of beams of electron beam irradiation.

129. (new) The method of claim 128, further comprising the steps of providing a plurality of electron beam sources and positioning the electron beam sources on opposing sides of the transport mechanism.

130. (new) The method of claim 126, further comprising the steps of transferring a sterilized tip cap into the sterile environment and adding the tip cap to an open tip of the container prior to said introducing a sterile fluid substance into the container.

131. (new) The method of claim 130, further comprising the step of transferring a sterilized plunger into the sterile environment, wherein said sealing the sterile fluid substance within the container includes inserting the plunger into an open end of the container.

132. (new) The method of claim 126, further comprising the step of transferring a sterilized plunger into the sterile environment and inserting the plunger into an open end of the container prior to said introducing a sterile fluid substance into the container.

133. (new) The method of claim 132, further comprising the step of transferring a sterile tip cap into the sterile environment, wherein said sealing the sterile fluid substance within the container includes adding the tip cap to an open tip of the container.

134. (new) The method of claim 126, wherein said providing a container includes forming the container at a molding station.

135. (new) The method of claim 126, further comprising the step of inserting the container into a transfer holder prior to transferring the container into the sterile environment.

136. (new) The method of claim 126, wherein no human contact with the container is required.